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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of ) Examiner: Paras, Peter  
Baulcombe, et al. )  
Serial No.: 09/491,549 ) Group Art Unit: 1632  
Filed: January 26, 2000 ) Response to paper No. 20  
For: "Gene Silencing" )

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AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R.

§1.116

In response to the Official Action dated August 28, 2002,  
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**In the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, line 2 with the  
following paragraph:

C4

The present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C.  
§119(a-d) to GB application number 9925459.1, filed October  
27, 1999.

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 1, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 17 as follows:

C1

1. (Twice amended) A method of detecting the silencing of a  
target gene in a plant, which method comprises the steps of:
  - (i) obtaining a sample of material from said plant,
  - (ii) producing a nucleic acid extract from said sample,
  - (iii) analyzing said extract such as to determine the  
presence or absence of short RNA molecules which are 21-25  
nucleotides in length (SRMs) in said extract,